

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1919.

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rectification of her boundaries and the restoration of independence. The sympathies of the young Shah and of such government as existed at Teheran were with the Allies. Their country, nevertheless, was the centre of a strong German propaganda, which was directed primarily to securing the aid of the Mohammedans of central Asia and India for Turkey and Germany. The unsettled conditions of Persia made it impossible for Persia to suppress this Teutonic activity until assistance was received from the British after their successes in the Mesopotamian valley.

On account of the position which she occupied Persia became a battleground for different factions and she suffered from the war more severely than was generally believed. Her northern provinces, especially Azerbaijan, of which Tabriz is the capital, was fought over for three years. Azerbaijan had been practically absorbed by Russia when the war began, and the efforts of Turkey to gain a hold in the province brought on a struggle in which there was mixed not only Russian and Turk, but German, Kurd, Caucasian mountain, Armenian, Persian and Persian insurgent and Persian tribesman. The whole country was as completely devastated as was Belgium or Serbia.

The geographical position of Persia, between the Caspian Sea and the Indian Ocean, and at the narrow point of the western Asiatic continent, gives her a position of unusual commercial and political importance in the Near East. With the binding conditions of former treaties ended and the pressure of Russia on the north and Turkey on the west removed, Persia would be restored to her former independence.

The American's New Year.

It is well enough to say, at the beginning of a year so promising, that the hearts and hopes of Americans are centered upon a new and better world. It is true enough, too, if we limit the period of applied altruistic thought to a few minutes of the several hundred that make up the day; but it is best for man to be frank enough to confess that most of his thinking to-day is devoted to his own little world: his family and his fortune; his mistakes, advances and ambitions.

Each of us in happy America goes pretty well about his own business. When the American steps out of his course, whether it be to pay a poor neighbor's rent or to break a salient in France, it is really something only incidental to his individual career. A young New Yorker at Chateau Thierry had in his head no map of Europe, but rather a memory of a fractional part of Tenth avenue. His object was not to assist the national aspirations of Lithuania, but to do his own particular job and go back to Tenth avenue—or on to the stars. If he and his millions of fellows had spent their lives mooning over world theories and international brotherhood there would have been no America to come to the world's rescue. Was there not idealism? Yes, the best that ever was; but it was the idealism of old poetry and not of tedious prose. The men who won the war knew JULIA WARD HOWE'S hymn, but probably not a single column line from the *New Republic*.

It is a fine year that the American individualist has to look back upon. His sacrifice, whether abroad or at home, whether in doing or going without, put victory in Foch's hands. He was the armorer and the almoner of civilization. For the sake of the side with which he had sympathized from the beginning, but which circumstances (what a number of disguises she has!) prevented him from joining until a late day, he submitted to being regulated, even by amateurs. He temporarily surrendered his individualism whenever and wherever necessary. In order that individualism's worst enemy might be beaten.

Now, at the beginning of a year free from the exertions of war, the individualist hails with pleasure a release from bureaucracy and a return to American freedom. He wants to enjoy the things that have made American life what it is; that have made this country a world power without the aid of a Metetrach, a Disraeli or a Bismarck. He wants his own country and his part in ruling it; and no part in the ruling of any other land with which we are at peace.

That is what he wants in this New Year and the other happy years that should follow, and he has a trick of getting what he wants.

The One Neutral at the Peace Conference.

The request of Persia for representation at the peace conference has been granted, according to information received at Washington, to the extent of a participation in the deliberations of the conference upon matters concerning Persia's interests. Persia, of which comparatively little has been heard during the war, and which is one of the more remote neutral nations, is thus the only one among them so far to be admitted to the peace table.

The exception in favor of Persia is largely due, it is said, to Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain is now the nation most interested in the settlement of the Persian question; she desires a stable government for the country on account of its proximity to her Indian dependencies and owing to her financial and commercial interests in southern Persia. The United States has a purely sympathetic interest in Persia, which has been shown in the recommendation by President Taft of WILLIAM MORGAN SHUSTER as the Treasurer General of the country, as well as by various helpful diplomatic favors. A mark of Persian appreciation of this country's friendliness was the subscription last May by the young Shah, AHMED MIRZA, for \$100,000 in Liberty bonds.

What Persia particularly desires is the removal of the evidences of the Russian domination of the past, the

use as a substitute for hops in the making of beer is a possibility that of course no longer interests Americans. Nevertheless, the lay and taxpayer population regarded with regret this destruction of potentially useful substances.

This feeling of regret was intensified when, in the newspapers of yesterday morning, the taxpayers read the news that:

"The [transport] Carago from Bordeaux, owing to the great amount of explosives aboard, had to anchor in Gravesend Bay and send the returning soldiers to Hoboken aboard transport service tug."

The newspapers gave no clue to the kind of explosives carried by the Carago. It may be that they are of a different nature from those which are being dumped aboard off Scotland Neck Lightship. The one may be stable, the other subject to deterioration, and hence dangerous to store, or useless to keep. But mere taxpayers would like to know, if publication of the information endangers no military secret, whether the Government is encouraging, permitting or compelling the destruction of valuable property through the Railroad Administration, while spending good cargo space and coal to lug the same kind of property across the Atlantic Ocean under the auspices of the War Department.

Where Are the Calendars?

Did MARS tie the hands of the calendar manufacturers last year, or has the American appetite for the hangings that mark the flying months weakened? Whatever the reason, scarcity of paper or lack of curiosity as to when the moon will be full, calendars are seen, at this most seasonable time, about as often as periscopes in Montana.

Of course we do not refer to the art confections that may be had in the stationery stores for the buying, but to the free calendars that once were looked upon by youth as the principal product of the fire insurance companies. Thirty years ago the small boy of the city or village did not consider his Christmas holidays well spent unless he had made the rounds of the fire insurance offices collecting calendars that were his for the mere asking, as blotters were also in those golden days.

Maybe the practice is still pursued somewhere west of Hoboken and the boys have already figured out the exact Saturday upon which school will close and have wondered, observing that Decoration Day falls upon Friday, whether school will take the trouble to reopen the next day. If school is held in their part of the country on Saturday, or whether there will not be a joyous three day vacation. The boys' fathers have noted this, too, with thoughts of three days after trout at the end of May and three days after bass in July; for the Fourth of July always falls upon the same day of the week as Decoration day.

Without his trusty calendar, how is the Wall Street man to know well in advance that WASHINGTON'S Birthday will come on a Saturday, assuring an opportunity for two days at Atlantic City, and that LEXINGTON'S Day is a Wednesday, with no chance of stealing an extra day on either side of it? He upon a control of the pulp industry that has robbed us of our means of knowing the pleasures of anticipation! Hoary for the free and unlimited collage of calendars!

What poor places the farmhouses made by the free and unlimited collage of calendars! In the matter of big, brilliant date pads as this metropolis fares. In olden times there was a calendar for every room, and the kitchen sometimes had two, not to mention the more intellectual almanacs that hung not far from the water dipper. There were the Old Farmers Almanac and Whotshis's Bitters Almanac and Whotshis's Saraparilla Almanac and you could get, among them, any sort of weather you wanted for any season. But the calendar was more important for every day use, particularly if the white space around each date was large enough to mark down the number of eggs the hens laid that day.

A King's Gift to a President.

The despatch which follows suggests the thoughtfulness with which the British sovereign prepared for the visit of his distinguished guest:

"London, December 31.—King GEORGE has presented a magnificent bound and illustrated history of Windsor Castle to President WILSON as a birthday gift, according to the Mail."

We may well imagine a graceful quality of the President's conditional acceptance of this gift, so appropriate for the shelves of a historian or for preservation in the White House as a memento of a happy occasion.

Conditional, we say, although we feel sure that the Congress, without whose consent Mr. Wilson may not, accept of any present, emolument, office or title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince or foreign State, will hasten to remove the barrier set up by the Constitution.

How Women Vote.

English political observers record their conclusion that in the general election which resulted in an overwhelming victory for Premier Lloyd George "the women candidates fared badly, partly because they represented the militant suffragettes, but mainly because there had not been time enough to organize the women's vote and get the proper women candidates."

The assumption that it was because there was not time to organize the women voters' women candidates failed to get the woman vote may be

justified by conditions in Great Britain and Ireland. Here, however, it has been found that women seldom vote for candidates merely because those candidates are women. On the contrary, the appeal to sex against sex has seldom been made, and never with conspicuous success so far as we are aware.

In the United States the votes of women are divided about as men's are. They are influenced by principle, prejudice or personality. No far in American experience there has been nothing to indicate a particular political bias among women voters for women candidates or against men candidates, a fact which has brought comfort to many persons who before women were enfranchised were frightened out of their boots by the possibility of a nation politically sundered, with all the men on one side and all the women on the other.

Millions of Americans are deliberating at every firework of America as to the terms of peace which America should accept.—THE HON. JAMES M. BECK in the "Evening Sun."

Isn't Mr. Beck's American fire-sides rather large?

He who makes fourteen New Year's resolutions will find it a trying task to keep them and keep them intact.

Announcement has come from the United States Naval Observatory that the two largest planets, Saturn and Jupiter, are creating a solar eclipse and local disturbances by their increasing opposition to the sun. There should be greater effort to maintain a balance of power.

It was the hastily recruited waitress who gave a Hooverized year, almost threatened with a hungry departure by a waitress' strike, its last sufficient helping.

Deficient demobilization develops demoralization.

THE DOOM OF THE WORLDS.

With Pleasure Its Indefinite Postponement Is Announced.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The utter failure of Mr. Grover's prognostication of a wave of "far below zero" temperature early in December due to the earth being shoved out of "its place in the sun" by Mercury casts doubt upon his reliability as a prophet and tends to lessen greatly the apprehension which your readers have doubtless felt ever since he made the prediction of the culmination of all things temporal as the result of a celestial catastrophe the magnitude of which has never been known in the annals of time, but which is conceived by him to be inevitable according to the unerring intimations of precise astronomical calculation. He has also cited numerous Scriptural references with the ostensible purpose of clothing his prophetic utterances with a higher authority than that afforded by mere astronomical data, maintaining further that the occurrence of this calamitous event will be in constant conformity with and in literal fulfillment of the Biblical prophecy relative to the falling of "the stars of heaven."

The concept that the ultimate doom of the universe is inevitable, that the great system of existence will in time cease to be, is one of the most persistent of modern times. It is adhered to by the votary of science no less than by the religious devotee, and has become so woven in the consciousness of the race as to be well nigh ineradicable. The influence of this idea upon the human mind is pernicious, and as Mr. Grover's conclusions have the effect of lending support to this erroneous idea, I shall endeavor to refute his assertions.

It is to be presumed that your readers are entirely familiar with the Groverian theory, which, briefly stated, is that the gradual contraction of the orbit of the meteoric swarm will eventually result in a collision of the November meteors with our planet, thus causing "every vestige of the works of mankind to be destroyed, as foretold in II Peter, chapter III, 10." Thus, he says, will occur some time after the millennium.

He seems, however, to have entirely overlooked the fact that at the time the foretold prophecy was enunciated the Newtonian law of universal gravitation had not yet been discovered. If I correct this law it is the effect of the universe attracts every other particle with a force whose direction is that of the line adjoining the two and whose magnitude is directly as the product of their masses and inversely as the square of their distance from each other.

Now, according to this law, the heaviest mass of matter in the solar and stellar systems is the greatest attractive force and every other particle of matter is necessarily attracted to this center. Attraction inversely as to the square of the distance I understand to mean that attraction is more or less proportionate to the distance, the greater mass having the greater attractive force. Accordingly all the matter in the universe will eventually gravitate into one body. To deny this is to deny the validity of the law.

Of course we know that this universal contracting is an instantaneous process, so we are forced to the conclusion that it is a gradual process, rendered so perhaps by the existence of some mysterious counteracting or coordinating law which tends almost to balance the law of attraction. This gradual gathering of all the matter in the universe into one body constitutes the "rolling together of the heavens as a scroll" (Isaiah, xxxiv., 4), eventuating in the formation of the "new earth" (Isaiah, lvi., 17) preparatory to the descent of the New Jerusalem (Revelation, xxi., 2), which occurs early in the millennium now dawning. Thus will be averted the great world catastrophe and the race of mankind preserved.

New York, December 31.

The contract—1919. The Old Year was a soldier brave in grimy khaki dress. A victory shriek was on his brow. A medal on his breast. And when all the bells on earth announced the stroke of twelve at night, he climbed into an ambulance. And tumbled out of sight.

The New Year has a dinner pail. As he views his savings. He pockets his bag with hammers, nails, and other useful things.

His face is puckered in a grin. His eyes with pleasure dance. He has a contract in his bosom. To reconstruct all France.

MISS LIVING.

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THOSE SERVICE CHEVRONS.

A Blue Striper Replies to Critics of Army Badges of Service.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your editorial article "The Silver Chevron" indicates that you are misinformed as regards service stripes.

You refer to "a gold chevron for overseas service," which is only partly correct. It should be "a gold chevron for six months overseas service; under six months overseas service a blue stripe."

I have just arrived back in this country after three months overseas service. I am entitled to a blue stripe. Why should the fellows who didn't go overseas resent the fact that they are only allowed to wear a silver stripe and are not allowed a gold stripe?

You say "some of these have said they will face court-martial rather than adopt the silver chevron."

As for those gentry, I can say in behalf of my comrades that they are allowed only a blue stripe that they are not compelled to wear any stripes whatsoever. They don't leave them on at all.

The officers also say that men who managed to get into noncombatant branches of the service in Europe, the officers and men who had "twisted their jobs" in Paris, or who were never near the battle front than a training camp in England are entitled to a gold chevron.

They are laboring under the misapprehension that the fellows who went across and didn't get into the actual fighting were on a picnic or a vacation trip.

These officers are without a doubt fellows who were kept over here and have never seen a trench or a fox hole or a drilling and guard duty occasionally and therefore think that they are entitled to a gold chevron, while fellows who went across and were not in the actual fighting and were not across for at least six months are entitled to only a blue stripe.

The blue stripe boys had hardships to contend with that the silver stripe boys should consider themselves lucky that they didn't have to endure. They were also in perpetual danger of air raids. I myself was in a place that was raided and bombed five times in three days, during the day and three times at night.

One outfit arrived home from overseas a short time ago that had been "over there" for five and one-half months and spent some of that time in the front line and are only entitled to a blue chevron; but these fellows are not satisfied with a silver chevron and want a gold one.

None of the boys in our outfit are sorry that we went across and withstood the hardships we went through cheerfully, and if the war had not ended when it did we would have been on the firing line in another week or two.

One of the boys in our outfit is a corporal who has been in the front line for five months and is entitled to a blue chevron for less than six months overseas service.

A BLUE STRIPPER OF THE SEVENTY-FOURTH C. A. C.

PORT TOWN, December 31.

President Wilson's Parents.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Will you please state where the father of President Wilson was born? Is it correct that his father was born in Ireland and his mother in Pennsylvania?

ALTOONA, Pa., December 31.

The President's father, the Rev. Joseph R. Wilson, was born in Steubenville, Ohio, the son of James Wilson, who emigrated from County Down, Ireland. His mother was born in Carlisle, England, and came to this country with her father, the Rev. Thomas Woodrow, a Scot.